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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife  
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CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

1961 PUBLIC USE OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

The 11 million visitors on the National Wildlife Refuges in 1961 represent a 3 percent increase over the visitor-days of public use in 1960. This increased recreational use is below the 10-year average which has seen public use of refuges climb from 3½ million in 1951 to the present 11 million.

Wildlife observations, picnicking, swimming, and photography were the most popular with nearly 7½ million visitors or about 67 percent of the total. Fishing accounted for about 29 percent or 3½ million persons. The total number of fishermen in 1961 showed scarcely any increase over the previous year due particularly to drought conditions in the south and in the far west. Hunting was enjoyed by 302,427 persons on 90 refuges in 1961. This represents a slight decrease from the previous year due to the more limited opportunities generally for waterfowl hunting.

The most intense public use continued to be on the Upper Mississippi River Wild Life and Fish Refuge, which extends for 284 miles along the river from Wabasha, Minnesota, nearly to Rock Island, Illinois. Over 2,879,000 persons were on the scattered parts of this refuge. The intensity of use continued on the 44,000-acre Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge in southern Illinois with 1,484,000 persons; an increase of nearly 200,000 over the previous year. The 59,000-acre Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge in southwestern Oklahoma had the third largest total with about 920,000 visitor-days of public use.

Refuges which are superimposed on Bureau of Reclamation, Corps of Engineers, and TVA reservoirs and flood control projects were generally most heavily used. These included Kentucky Woodlands, Wheeler, and Tennessee Refuges along the Tennessee River; the Havasu Lake and Imperial Refuges along the Lower Colorado River; and Fort Peck Game Range on the headwaters of the Missouri River. These 24 cooperative refuges had over 2 million visitors in 1961. The intensity of use on these 24 refuges together with 30 others on which the annual visitors exceeded 30,000 persons is shown on page 6.

Recreation is permitted on designated portions of 153 of the 284 refuges where such coordinated use can be accomplished without defeating the primary objective for which the refuge was established. Opportunities for camping are extremely limited. Recreational developments are often of the primitive type since legislative authorization for such development is generally lacking.

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The following tabulation of public use, arranged by regions, is based upon information submitted by all refuge managers.

REGION I (Pacific)

<u>Refuge</u>	<u>Total Use</u>	<u>Hunting Use</u>	<u>Fishing Use</u>	<u>Miscellaneous Use</u>
Benton Lake	600	--	--	600
Bowdoin	16,000	290	--	15,710
Camas	795	163	--	632
Clear Lake	4,000	--	--	4,000
Cold Springs	9,000	1,200	5,000	2,800
Columbia	51,754	5,346	26,830	19,578
Colusa	8,950	4,000	450	4,500
Deer Flat	177,572	2,000	40,000	135,572
Desert Game	170,700	3,000	1,000	166,700
Fort Peck	209,700	28,200	34,500	147,000
Hart Mountain	8,020	900	35	7,085
Kern	200	--	--	200
Klamath Forest	1,510	660	300	550
Little Pend Oreille	15,965	5,000	4,250	6,715
Lower Klamath	54,406	12,206	--	42,200
Malheur	11,750	266	2,500	8,984
McKay Creek	9,800	1,200	3,500	5,100
McNary	5,400	--	2,500	2,900
Medicine Lake	12,000	350	--	11,650
Merced	1,857	1,557	--	300
Minidoka	20,500	--	7,500	13,000
Modoc	4,870	910	1,400	2,560
National Bison	36,000	--	--	36,000
Nine-Pipe	5,322	--	4,050	1,272
Pablo	2,800	--	2,200	600
Pixley	25	--	--	25
Red Rock Lakes	2,700	200	500	2,000
Ruby Lake	14,035	35	6,000	8,000
Sacramento	14,350	--	--	14,350
Salton Sea	6,940	240	200	6,500
Sheldon	7,175	1,000	35	6,140
Snake River	500	300	150	50
Stillwater	4,525	800	1,225	2,500
Sutter	14,700	5,700	7,000	2,000
Tule Lake	76,713	10,513	--	66,200
Turnbull	4,000	--	--	4,000
Upper Klamath	12,000	500	7,000	4,500
Willapa	<u>1,750</u>	<u>850</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>900</u>
Total	998,902	87,404	158,125	753,373

### REGION 2 (Southwest)

<u>Refuge</u>	<u>Total Use</u>	<u>Hunting Use</u>	<u>Fishing Use</u>	<u>Miscellaneous Use</u>
Aransas	13,328	--	--	13,328
Bear River	18,332	2,459	1,500	14,373
Bitter Lake	7,970	200	4,200	3,570
Bosque del Apache	2,500	--	1,000	1,500
Buffalo Lakes	294,220	--	39,225	254,995
Burford Lake	279	115	--	164
Cabeza Prieta	1,450	--	--	1,450
Fish Springs	345	100	--	245
Hagerman	10,000	--	6,000	4,000
Havasu Lake	511,560	280	230,000	281,280
Hutton Lake	300	--	--	300
Imperial	148,390	2,860	58,000	87,530
Kirwin	150,849	922	104,579	45,348
Kofa	7,400	350	--	7,050
Laguna Atascosa	25,000	--	22,600	2,400
Monte Vista	6,022	1,822	200	4,000
Muleshoe	4,520	--	200	4,320
National Elk	95,350	--	1,600	93,750
Ouray	275	75	--	200
Pathfinder	20,000	1,000	15,000	4,000
Quivira	500	--	--	500
Salt Plains	306,730	--	15,350	291,380
San Andres	1,200	800	--	400
Santa Ana	7,653	--	--	7,653
Tishomingo	24,620	1,000	11,230	12,390
Washita	576	--	276	300
Wichita Mountains	<u>919,772</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>52,925</u>	<u>866,847</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,579,141</b>	<b>11,983</b>	<b>563,885</b>	<b>2,003,273</b>

### REGION 3 (North-central)

Agassiz	42,118	3,258	--	38,860
Arrowwood	10,600	400	200	10,000
Bear Butte	7,500	--	1,000	6,500
Belle Fourche	4,000	--	500	3,500
Chautauqua	48,202	1,400	38,518	8,284
Crab Orchard	1,484,000	21,500	58,400	1,404,100
Crescent Lake	800	--	450	350
Des Lacs	9,630	630	--	9,000
De Soto	36,400	--	3,000	33,400
Fort Niobrara	23,806	--	--	23,806
Horicon	287,600	7,600	80,000	200,000
Lacreek	14,300	800	3,500	10,000



<u>Refuge</u>	<u>Total Use</u>	<u>Hunting Use</u>	<u>Fishing Use</u>	<u>Miscellaneous Use</u>
Lake Andes	11,570	500	11,000	70
Lake Ilo	6,200	--	2,200	4,000
Long Lake	800	500	100	200
Lostwood	780	325	--	455
Lower Souris	10,950	3,800	50	7,100
Mark Twain	47,055	160	32,305	14,590
Mingo	30,000	--	25,000	5,000
Necedah	100,000	40,000	10,000	50,000
Rice Lake	2,500	400	900	1,200
Sand Lake	5,700	600	600	4,500
Seney	38,322	1,600	3,000	33,722
Shiawassee	12,300	2,700	4,000	5,600
Slade	37,200	800	4,000	32,400
Snake Creek	485	340	--	145
Squaw Creek	4,000	--	1,000	3,000
Sullys Hill	50,000	--	--	50,000
Swan Lake	46,983	3,483	9,000	34,500
Tamarac	19,951	2,465	1,000	16,486
Tewaukon	12,800	600	7,500	4,700
Union Slough	5,900	--	780	5,120
Upper Mississippi	2,879,035	39,210	1,304,825	1,535,000
Upper Souris	66,600	1,500	45,000	20,100
Valentine	7,475	--	1,500	5,975
Waubay	<u>9,530</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>9,500</u>
Total	5,375,092	134,601	1,649,328	3,591,163

REGION 4 (Southeast)

Back Bay	9,820	--	1,800	8,020
Big Lake	26,800	7	2,350	24,443
Blackbeard Island	6,296	642	4,100	1,554
Blackwater	28,600	--	600	28,000
Cape Romain	5,764	299	3,200	2,265
Carolina Sandhills	4,500	--	1,200	3,300
Catahoula	3,328	--	--	3,328
Chassahowitzka	6,590	40	5,750	800
Chincoteague	12,000	--	4,000	8,000
Delta	34,000	--	800	33,200
Great White Heron, Key West, and Key Deer	100,000	--	80,000	20,000
Gulf Island	300	--	200	100
Holla Bend	1,250	--	250	1,000
Kentucky Woodlands	298,530	2,935	190,000	105,595
Lacassine	34,000	--	23,500	10,500
Loxahatchee	36,294	194	25,000	11,100
Mackay Island	2,100	--	500	1,600

<u>Refuge</u>	<u>Total Use</u>	<u>Hunting Use</u>	<u>Fishing Use</u>	<u>Miscellaneous Use</u>
Mattamuskeet	46,871	3,871	13,000	30,000
Noxubee	68,560	3,462	27,098	38,000
Okefenokee	153,260	--	25,000	128,260
Pea Island	16,000	--	4,000	12,000
Piedmont	15,000	7,919	250	6,831
Presquile	224	--	--	224
Reelfoot-Lake Isom	39,385	410	35,265	3,710
Sabine	18,225	--	17,800	425
Sanibel	150,000	--	15,000	135,000
Santee	90,000	--	77,000	13,000
St. Marks	39,940	50	8,000	31,890
Savannah	11,000	--	6,000	5,000
Susquehanna	8,500	--	4,500	4,000
Swanquarter	10,000	--	6,000	4,000
Tennessee	150,000	--	95,000	55,000
Wheeler	157,750	3,300	140,000	14,450
White River	110,000	15,000	70,000	25,000
Yazoo	<u>770</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>719</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,695,657</b>	<b>38,180</b>	<b>887,163</b>	<b>770,314</b>

REGION 5 (Northeast)

Bombay Hook	24,587	767	510	23,310
Brigantine	48,641	1,641	16,000	31,000
Erie	2,400	1,425	300	675
Great Meadows	3,200	10	--	3,190
Killcohook	500	--	--	500
Missisquoi	3,856	300	900	2,656
Monomoy	14,000	--	4,200	9,800
Montezuma	18,503	403	7,000	11,100
Moosehorn	11,300	2,600	1,600	7,100
Morton	19,984	--	--	19,984
Oak Orchard	5,820	3,683	200	1,937
Parker River	<u>193,000</u>	<u>230</u>	<u>19,500</u>	<u>173,270</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>345,791</b>	<b>11,059</b>	<b>50,210</b>	<b>284,522</b>

REGION 6 (Alaska)

Kenai	125,000	18,000	25,500	81,500
Kodiak	<u>1,350</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>--</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>126,350</b>	<b>19,200</b>	<b>25,650</b>	<b>81,500</b>

<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>11,120,933</b>	<b>302,427</b>	<b>3,334,361</b>	<b>7,484,145</b>
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# INTENSITY OF PUBLIC USE ON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES IN 1961

## A. Areas With Greatest Public Use:

Upper Mississippi	2,879,035
Crab Orchard	1,434,000
Wichita Mountains	<u>919,772</u>
Total	5,282,807

## B. Refuges Superimposed on Bureau of Reclamation, Corps of Engineers, TVA Reservoirs, or other Flood Control Projects:

Havasu Lake	511,560	Loxahatchee	36,294
Kentucky Woodlands	298,530	Minidoka	20,500
Fort Peck	209,700	Pathfinder	20,000
Deer Flat	177,572	Bowdoin	16,000
Wheeler	157,750	Upper Klamath	12,000
Kirwin	150,849	McKay Creek	9,800
Tennessee	150,000	Cold Springs	9,000
Imperial	148,390	Salton Sea	6,940
Santee	90,000	McNary	5,400
Tule Lake	76,713	Stillwater	4,525
Lower Klamath	54,406	Clear Lake	4,000
Mark Twain	47,055	Snake Creek	<u>485</u>
Total			2,217,469

## C. Other Refuges With More Than 30,000 Annual Visitors:

Salt Plains	306,730	Necedah	100,000	Agassiz	42,118
Buffalo Lakes	294,220	National Elk	95,350	St. Marks	39,940
Horicon	287,600	Noxubee	68,560	Reelfoot	39,385
Parker River	193,000	Upper Souris	66,600	Seney	38,322
Desert Game	170,700	Columbia	51,754	Slade	37,200
Okefenokee	153,260	Sullys Hill	50,000	De Soto	36,400
Sanibel	150,000	Brigantine	48,641	National Bison	36,000
Kenai	125,000	Chautauqua	48,202	Lacassine	34,000
White River	110,000	Swan Lake	46,983	Delta	34,000
Key Deer, etc.	100,000	Mattamuskeet	46,871	Mingo	<u>30,000</u>
Total					2,929,038
Subtotal					<u>10,429,314</u>

## D. Public Use on Remaining 96 Refuges:

	<u>691,619</u>
GRAND TOTAL	11,120,933